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ly advised the government to persecute its subjects for becoming Catholics. Mr. Castle asserts, that this "was known to have the decided disapprobation of all, and where, by any means, it reached the ears of any, it was made the subject of earnest remonstrance."

That they exerted such influence as they had acquired, to restrain the use of intoxicating liquors, even those of French manufacture, and that, in conformity with the ancient and received language of Protestant theology, they declared the Catholic worship of images and of the Virgin idolatrous, is not denied by them. But to maintain that this made them the enemies of France, or withdrew them from the protection which the American flag secures to American citizens on all seas and on all shores, is so absurd, "that you lose the injustice in the ridicule." We are glad to hear, that they have presented a temperate statement of the case in a memorial to Congress, and in a letter to the King of the French.

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6. — *On International Copyright ; in a Letter to the Hon. William C. Preston, Senator of the United States.* By FRANCIS LIEBER. New York : Wiley & Putnam. 1840. 8vo. pp. 67.

DR. LIEBER pleads with earnestness and ability the cause of that much injured class, the authors, against their old opponents and taskmasters, the booksellers. In some former publications, he had briefly commented on the point at issue, and expressed a natural indignation, that rights, long since acknowledged by all upright and disinterested judges, should still be invaded and trampled upon, because legislators were too indolent or careless to grant them legal protection. In the pamphlet before us, though professing to treat only of *International Copyright*, he really goes over the whole ground, fairly demonstrating the perpetuity of literary property, and therefore branding the violation of it, whether at home or abroad, whether immediately or after a term of years, by its only appropriate name, as piracy. We need not follow out his argument here, for the cause has already been advocated in our pages, and so fully discussed in other quarters by persons whose interests were at stake, that the public need no farther information before deciding on the right and wrong of the whole matter. Yet this publication by Dr. Lieber is well-timed, for

legislators need not only to be convinced of the merits of the case, but to be urged to act with promptitude, that the legislation of other countries may be made effectual in protecting the rights of our own citizens. England and Germany have at last granted a scanty measure of justice, by extending the privilege of copyright in their dominions to all foreigners, on the single condition, that other governments should defend the property of British and German authors in return. American writers may, therefore, secure the proceeds of the sale of their books in these two countries, as soon as Congress shall see fit to be equally just to the countrymen of Goethe and Scott.

Dr. Lieber's letter is properly addressed to a distinguished Senator, who, in his official station, has already defended the author's claim, and has promised to persevere in the generous endeavour. To him and his associates, therefore, the question may fairly be put ; Is it not a great shame, a crying injustice, that while the people of Boston, for instance, are not allowed to take the goods and chattels of their neighbour in New York, they should be encouraged to seize property without compensation or consent, if the owner resides in London ; that they are prohibited from confiscating an English ship, but allowed to make prize of an English book ; that they are permitted to defraud Dickens or Wordsworth, but not the Rothschilds or the Barings ? "Mountains interposed" do sometimes "make enemies of nations;" but should they always make pirates of booksellers, and cause the whole reading community to become accessory to the crime by sharing in the plunder ? We use plain language, but believe that it is fully justified by a fair view of the case. It seems harsh, doubtless, to say to the purchaser of a cheap American edition of "Nicholas Nickleby," or any other popular English work, that he is really defrauding his brother man ; that he is taking that which is not his own. But were it not for that miserable sophism in ethics, so frequently applied as a narcotic to a complaining conscience, that a man is justified in doing what is not prohibited by legal enactment, such a purchaser must plead guilty to the charge.

Had this country never been separated from Great Britain, the act would be reprobated under its proper name. But dissolving the political connexion between two countries does not discharge the citizens of either from the moral obligation of paying their debts. Will it justify them in appropriating to themselves the property of another without his consent ? And a literary work is the property of its author by a better title than can be shown for any other species of exclusive ownership. He does not merely appropriate by early possession and cultivation, like the landholder ; nor render available for hu-

man wants what was formerly useless, because at large, like the hunter or the fisherman ; nor alter and remodel previously existing products, like the artisan. But he *creates*. His exclusive title deprives the community of nothing which it possessed before, or ever could obtain without his agency, since no two persons can hit upon writing the same book.

These are very obvious considerations, and, with a multitude of others bearing upon the same point, are set forth in a very able and lucid manner in Dr. Lieber's Letter. We hope the distinguished statesman to whom it is addressed will be successful in forcing them upon the attention of Congress, and that, through the action of that body, the people will be induced to regard the publication of a foreign book without the consent of the author as being, in the language of Luther, quoted by our author, "a right great robbery, which God assuredly will punish, and ill-befitting for any honest Christian soul."

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7. — 1. *William Tell and Other Poems, from the German of Schiller*. By WILLIAM PETER, A. M., Christ Church, Oxford. Philadelphia. 1840. 12mo. pp. 234.  
2. *William Tell, a Drama in Five Acts. From the German of Schiller*. Providence. 1838. 12mo.

ALL readers of German are of course familiar with Schiller's celebrated historical play of "William Tell." The dramatic faults of Schiller appear less in this, than in any other of his works ; and some scenes in it are marked by a striking dramatic effect. The life of the Alpine Swiss is said by those who are familiar with it to be here delineated with extraordinary fidelity ; and it is stated by Goethe that even the local scenery is painted with as much truth as beauty, though Schiller had never visited Switzerland, and depended wholly upon the descriptions of the places, which had been verbally communicated to him by Goethe. At any rate, the name of William Tell is, all over the world, a watchword of bravery and patriotism ; the poet who has represented his life, in a way to satisfy the hearts of men, deserves to be held in everlasting remembrance, and that poet is Schiller, most unquestionably. The character of Tell, as drawn by Schiller, coincides perfectly with all that we know of him from history and tradition. The poet has been remarkably careful not to add to the noble conception which all men had formed, of the gallant son of the mountains ; he has pre-